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ABSTRACT

Key facts are provided about the Northeast Regional Credential program which allows greater transportability of teacher certification across state lines. Tight and exclusionary teacher certification rules are seen as related to the high numbers of teachers leaving the profession. This regional credentialling program is an agreement among seven Northeastern states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) which allows educators certified in one state to be employed in any participating state for up to 2 years before being required to meet local certification requirements. Eligible professionals include regular, vocational, and special education teachers; counselors; reading specialists; school administrators; and school support personnel. Special education credentials included are: teachers of the blind and partially sighted; teachers of the deaf and hearing impaired; teachers of preschool, elementary, and secondary special education; and teachers of intensive special education. One state, Rhode Island, has also adopted a pension portability plan in which teachers can transfer money accrued in their pension plans to states with reciprocal plans. A chart lists all credential titles and their status (whether issued by, accepted by, or both) in each of the seven states. (DB)

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The National Association of State Directors of Special Education

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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INFORMATION BULLETIN #37

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CREDENTIAL

and

Rhode Island's Pension Portability Plan

EC 301838

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This Information Bulletin consists of a presentation of various facts regarding the Northeast Regional Credential. The credential, first of its kind in the nation, permits educators who earn certification in any of the seven participating states to work in any of the other states. This Bulletin also highlights Rhode Island's pension portability plan which is designed to facilitate the transfer of teachers from one state to another.

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The total amount of Federal funds appropriated for the project is $236,959. One hundred percent of the total cost of the project is financed with Federal funds.

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- Contributing to the shortage of teachers has been the alarming rate of teacher attrition. The Rand Corporation reported in 1986 that 40% of teachers nationwide leave the profession within two years of entering the field, many due to the difficulty of transferring teaching certification. Tight and exclusionary state teacher certification rules have longed discouraged teachers from crossing state lines.

- **The Northeast Regional Credential is an agreement amongst seven New England states, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, that will make it easier for teachers to cross state lines for a job.**

- The new credential, first of its kind in the nation, will permit some educators who earn certification in any of the seven states to work in any of the other participating states for up to two years. During that time the teachers, counselors, or other specialists holding the new credential must fulfill the requirements of the state in which they are employed in order to obtain that state's certificate.

- The Northeast Regional Credential is part of a larger collaborative effort by the education departments of the Northeast states and the Regional Laboratory for Educational Improvement of the Northeast and Islands. The goal of this larger effort, called the Northeast Common Market project, is to ensure that the region continues to have highly qualified educators into the next century.

- **Eligible professionals include regular, vocational and special education teachers, counselors, reading specialists, school administrators, and school support personnel.**

- Special education credentials include: Teachers of the Blind and partially Sighted, Teachers of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, Teachers of Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary Special Education, and Teachers of Intensive Special Education.

- States have agreed to a five year contractual period which commenced on April 1, 1990. At the end of five years, states will decide whether or not to renew the program.

- The Northeast Regional Credential is designed to facilitate qualified teachers' abilities to acquire teaching positions in any of the seven states. However, when moving into a new state, teachers have historically lost all or some of their accrued retirement benefits.

- **One state within the Northeast Region, Rhode Island, has become the first state to adopt a pension portability plan. The plan allows public school teachers to transfer the money accrued in their pension plans when they move out of the state, provided the other state involved has a reciprocal agreement.**

- The Northeast Common Market is considering adopting a regional reciprocity compact for the transfer of pension plans. Massachusetts has introduced legislation that will allow pension transfer.

- Rhode Island's pension plan, like the Northeast Regional Credential, is designed so that teachers are freer to move, thus helping balance the supply of educators around the nation, producing a more varied pool of teachers and encouraging teachers to stay in the field.

For more information contact:

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STATES THAT ISSUE AND ACCEPT NORTHEAST REGIONAL CREDENTIALS

The Northeast Regional Credential titles that are available in the region are listed in the first column of the chart below. The states that can issue or accept a particular title are identified in the row to the right of each title listed .

Northeast Regional Credential Titles	CT		ME		MA		NH		NY		RI		VT	
	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC	Issues NRC	Accepts NRC
Art	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Biology	x		x[1]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Business	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chemistry	x		x[1]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Early Childhood	x				x	x	x	x	'93	'93	x	x	x	x
Elementary	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
English	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Foreign Language[1]	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Health	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Home Economics	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Industrial Arts/Technology	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Library/Media	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mathematics	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Music	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Occupational/Trade	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Physical Education	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Physics	x		x[1]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Reading Specialist	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
School Guidance Counselor	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teacher of the Blind and Partially Sighted	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Teacher of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Teacher of Special Education (preschool)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teacher of Special Education (elementary)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teacher of Special Education (secondary)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teacher of Special Education Intensive (all levels)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

[1]The Northeast Regional Credential will be issued in the area in which the individual has a major.